we may readily see, if the precaution of preventing the development of young *Amphiura* had not been taken, the young Crustaceans might have fallen easy prey to the vigorously growing young of the brittle-star.

Many questions of theoretical interest suggest themselves in regard to the curious condition of parasitism mentioned above. How by a theory of the advantage which has come to the Crustacean has the life within the brood-sac of *Amphiura* originated? That it is a manifest protection to the young Crustacean to be sheltered by its host appears self-evident, and one can on this ground find abundant cause for the mode of life which has been mentioned. Moreover, it is also a great advantage that the young of the *Amphiura* be destroyed. We may then suppose that in the evolution of this manner of life, after the Crustacean has found a home in the brood-sac of the brittle-star, the ovaries of the *Amphiura* may have been aborted by the parasite, and this habit of destroying the ovary has led to a survival of the young Crustacean. That habit becoming hereditary has led to the condition of life as it now exists. Whether the ovaries were first used as food, and in that way the habit of spaying the *Amphiura* arose, I cannot say. It is possible that they offered a tempting morsel to the Crustacean, and the advantage thus gained by the parasite over others has led through heredity to the condition which we at present find.—*Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.* vol. xxiv. p. 31.

### *The Bressa Prize.*

The Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin gives notice that from the 1st of January, 1887, the new term for competition for the seventh Bressa Prize has begun, to which, according to the testator's will, scientific men and inventors of all nations will be admitted. A prize will therefore be given to the scientific author or inventor, whatever be his nationality, who during the years 1887–90, "according to the judgment of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin, shall have made the most important and useful discovery, or published the most valuable work on physical and experimental science, natural history, mathematics, chemistry, physiology, and pathology, as well as geology, history, geography, and statistics."

The term will be closed at the end of December 1890.

The value of the prize amounts to 12,000 Italian lire.

The prize will in no case be given to any of the National Members of the Academy of Turin, resident or non-resident.

*The President of the R. Academy,*
A. Genocchi.

Turin, January 1st, 1889.